

# WASHINGTON CROP WEATHER

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## Crop and Weather Information for the Week Ending October 14, 2001

### WEEK IN BRIEF:

**Much Needed Rain was Received Last Week Across the State  
Pumpkin Patches and Corn Mazes were Open for Visitors**

### FIELD CROPS

Much needed rain was received across the state of Washington last week, but more is required to relieve the drought situation. Winter wheat seeding continued with good emergence in most areas. Soil crusting was reported in Whitman County over deep seeded winter wheat. Potato and carrot harvests continued. Christmas tree growers continued to prepare trees, fields, and roads for harvest. Corn harvested for silage was in full swing. Lima bean harvest was beginning to wind down. Turfgrass growers were mowing fields between rain showers. U-Pick pumpkin patches and corn mazes continued to receive good business over the weekend.

### LIVESTOCK

Range and pastures benefitted from last weeks' showers, but little growth was expected due to shorter days and cooler nights. On the western side of the state, cattle herds were being moved to fields not subject to flooding. Dairy producers were applying liquid manure to forage fields. Eastern Washington cattle producers continued to wean and cull herds due to lack of feed and water. Range and pasture conditions were 20% very poor, 55% poor, 20% fair, and 5% good.

### FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Red Delicious apple and Asian pear harvests were in full swing. Cranberry festival was underway in Grayland, featuring antique equipment used for growing and harvesting cranberries and cranberry arts and crafts. Sweet corn harvesting continued.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork	
This Week	Last Week
5.1	6.9

Soil Moisture	Soil Moisture and Supply			
	% Acreage			
Soil Type	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	20	50	30	-
Subsoil	20	60	20	-
Irrigation Water	-	15	85	-
Hay and Roughage	5	15	80	-

VS=Very Short, SH=Short, AD=Adequate, S=Surplus

Crop Progress				
Crop/Activity	% Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2000	5 Yr. Avg.
Winter Wheat Planted	92	82	96	93
Winter Wheat Emerged	76	66	78	77
Potatoes Harvested	76	58	81	79
Dry Beans Harvested	95	72	93	88
Corn Harvested for Silage	76	67	96	92
Corn Harvested for Grain	8	6	13	13

Crop Condition *					
Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Dry Beans	-	-	-	100	-
Corn	-	-	5	95	-
Potatoes	-	-	5	95	-

\* Crop conditions are a measure of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

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# COUNTY COMMENTS

## WESTERN

**Clallam/Jefferson:** Temperatures were normal for the season. There were windy conditions with some rain for several days. Corn silage harvest was still in progress. There were no reports of crop damage or drought assistance needed.

**Gray's Harbor:** The Cranberry Coast Chamber in Grayland was busy making final preparations for the weekend's Cranberry Festival, which showcases the area's cranberry industry. The event featured bog tours, cranberry arts and crafts, and tours of the museum, which houses a collection of antique farm equipment used in the growing and harvesting of cranberries. Sweet corn harvest continued at a brisk pace in the county, with some fields producing disappointing yields due primarily to short yields. Asian pear harvest was underway with growers reporting a lighter than normal crop. U-Pick pumpkin farms reported above average sales for this early in the season. Christmas tree growers continued preparing fields, roads, and equipment for harvest. Commercial dahlia growers were waiting for tubers to mature prior to digging. Corn silage harvest was in full swing.

**Grays Harbor/Lewis (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Growers were busy wrapping up fall harvest of late-seeded grain and field and sweet corn. Fall seedings were being completed between the rains.

**Pierce/South King:** Crop conditions have taken a turn. The weather cooled off, bringing high winds and rain. There was no report of crop damage.

**Snohomish/North King:** The temperatures were below average for most of the week. Several days were windy and the nights had heavy rain. Corn silage harvest progressed, with a few days lost to stormy weather. Corn mazes and pumpkin patches were attracting crowds.

**Thurston:** A tapestry of color has been woven across the rural landscape of Thurston County, as native deciduous trees and shrubs produce a vibrant mixture of red and golden hues among the evergreens. Ag producers kept busy completing fall chores and preparing for winter weather. Livestock producers were moving livestock to fields not subject to flooding. Dairy producers were making final applications of liquid manure to fields before winter rains saturate soils. U-Pick pumpkin farms reported excellent sales volume. Christmas tree growers continued preparing equipment for tree harvest. Commercial turfgrass growers were mowing fields between showers.

**Whatcom:** The corn silage harvest was nearly complete. Some rain was received during the week.

## CENTRAL

**Franklin:** Temperatures were mild and some rain was received during the week. Potatoes, carrots, and sweet corn were being harvested. Apple and alfalfa harvests continued.

**Grant:** Lima bean harvest was nearly complete. Carrot and sweet corn harvest continued. Apple harvest continued in all areas.

**Kittitas:** Potato harvest wound down. Apple harvest should be in its last few days of picking. New seeding timothy hay fields were seeded down. A good rain was received the night of October 10. Pastures and ranges remained in poor condition.

**Yakima:** Harvest of Red Delicious apples continued. Cool nights and warm days enhanced the quality, flavor, storability, and color of the apple crop over the past week. Braeburn, Granny Smith, and early Fuji apples will be harvested over the next week.

**Yakima (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Average temperatures varied from 10 degrees below normal to 7 degrees above normal, with a trace of precipitation on October 10. High winds with a maximum speed of 39 miles per hour occurred on October 12. No new crop losses due to the weather were reported.

## **EASTERN**

**Adams:** Most of the winter wheat was emerged but some reseeding has taken place or will take place, because of cheat grass infestations or poor emergence because of a lack of soil moisture. Measurable precipitation was needed to help root growth.

**Asotin/Garfield:** A few rain showers were received during the week. Some areas received enough rain to stop fieldwork, while other areas received minimal amounts. There were still many producers seeding winter wheat. Very little wheat emerged that had been seeded early. Cheatgrass and goatgrass were a concern, since early fall rains were not received. The rain would have sprouted annual grasses prior to planting the wheat. It will take much more precipitation to end the drought. The situation for pastures and rangeland has not changed since the little bit of moisture will not provide much growth this fall. A wet winter is needed to replenish soil moisture and recharge water sources.

**Lincoln:** Winter wheat seeding was nearly 100 percent complete and mostly emerged. Precipitation is needed to help with root growth.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** Rain received this past week was helpful. The area received varying amounts, but approximately .25 to .50 inches fell. Winter wheat was being seeded now that the rain has come. Friday some parts of the county had up to 2 inches of SNOW. Grazing conditions have not been adequate to sustain herds, and liquidations have occurred.

**Stevens:** The county received rain at the end of last week and over the weekend. Producers continued to move cattle to market. Finding adequate water for livestock was a very big problem. Winter wheat emerged and looked good after the recent rainfall.

**Whitman:** Needed rain fell across the county, with the highest accumulation going over 1 inch. Winter wheat seeding progressed rapidly, but was interrupted by rainfall both early and late in the week. Soil crusting was reported over some deep seeded winter wheat, but emergence seemed good in most locations. Pastures benefitted from the moisture, but limited growth response was expected due to shorter daylight hours and increasingly cold temperatures.

# WEEKLY WEATHER STATISTICS

October 15, 2001

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
<b>WEST</b>															
Bellingham	39	58	50	-2	8	-7	0	0	0.86	0.18	5	2.33	-0.90	72	12
Everett	46	59	51	-1	12	-7	0	0	0.51	-0.11	6	1.67	-1.66	50	13
Hoquiam	43	58	52	-4	16	-21	0	0	1.80	0.58	5	2.67	-2.86	48	11
Kelso	41	61	52	-2	23	-6	0	0	1.23	0.49	5	2.26	-1.51	60	10
Olympia	36	61	50	-1	12	-2	0	0	1.27	0.46	6	1.88	-1.88	50	12
Seattle-Tacoma	44	58	52	-3	15	-13	0	0	0.39	-0.22	5	1.13	-1.91	37	13
Shelton	38	61	51	-3	11	-13	0	0	1.79	0.76	5	2.53	-2.05	55	10
Tacoma	36	61	51	-3	11	-12	0	0	0.07	-0.54	3	0.17	-2.92	6	5
Vancouver	41	65	55	2	38	13	0	0	0.69	0.09	5	1.46	-1.71	46	9
<b>CENTRAL</b>															
Ellensburg	28	65	49	0	12	2	0	0	0.14	0.03	2	0.23	-0.45	34	3
Omak	26	64	46	-4	1	-8	0	0	0.02	-0.18	1	0.39	-0.74	35	3
Stampede Pass	31	47	38	-6	0	0	0	0	5.42	4.20	7	6.54	0.84	115	15
Wenatchee	37	66	51	-3	15	-9	0	-2	0.00	-0.07	0	0.08	-0.46	15	1
Yakima AP	29	72	51	-2	20	2	0	0	0.00	-0.07	0	0.14	-0.40	26	1
<b>NORTHEAST</b>															
Colville	29	63	46	-3	1	-6	0	0	0.52	0.30	4	0.82	-0.74	53	5
Deer Park	25	57	42	-8	0	-10	0	0	0.91	0.70	6	1.35	0.10	108	8
Spokane AP	30	58	46	-4	0	-11	0	0	0.56	0.37	5	0.73	-0.33	69	7
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>															
Ephrata	32	70	52	-3	26	0	0	-3	0.03	-0.04	1	0.16	-0.34	32	2
Moses Lake	27	68	51	-4	21	-5	0	-3	0.02	-0.05	2	0.04	-0.46	8	3
Quincy	29	68	51	-2	16	-4	0	0	0.01	-0.06	1	0.07	-0.50	12	2
Ritzville	31	63	47	-5	0	-16	0	0	0.18	0.04	3	0.29	-0.55	35	4
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>															
Hanford	34	67	54	-4	33	-14	0	-7	0.04	-0.03	1	0.17	-0.32	35	2
Pasco	31	71	54	-2	37	3	3	0	0.18	0.09	1	0.21	-0.31	40	2
Pullman	34	59	47	-4	3	-13	0	0	0.94	0.66	3	1.30	-0.21	86	6
Walla Walla AP	38	68	55	-2	36	-4	2	-2	0.73	0.45	3	1.22	-0.29	81	7
Whitman Mission	27	68	50	-3	17	-4	0	0	0.72	0.51	3	1.00	-0.07	93	6
<b>WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE</b>															
Coeur D'A'AP	36	59	46	-6	0	-18	0	0	0.91	0.62	5	1.16	-0.60	66	9
Lewiston ID	37	66	54	-2	28	-5	0	-3	0.52	0.31	3	0.71	-0.46	61	5

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2001

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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